REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant does not agree that claims 1-23 and claims 24-25 are drawn to separate inventions. All of the independent claims are centered on bandwidth provisioning and all describe determining a *delay time* for one or more PDU segments to propagate between a first switching device and a second switching device based on a timestamp. The PDU segments are filtered at traffic policers depending on the *delay time*. This limitation is completely related to the common limitation in all of the independent claims. As such, Applicant believes the claims are all drawn to a common invention.

However, and purely in the interest of expediting the prosecution of the instant invention, Applicant has elected Invention I, Claims 1-23 to be examined.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL LUCENT

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By: /Raffi Gostanian/
Raffi Gostanian
Reg. No. 42,595
972.849.1310